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Title: Need to check the rising prices of cast iron and coal with a view to safeguard the interests of small engineering foundry units in Gujarat and other parts of the country.

SHRI P.S. GADHAVI (KUTCH): As the Government lifted control over the steel plants, prices of pig iron and cast iron scrap rose beyond the reach of small engineering foundry units, which are spread throughout the country.

During the period of the last one year, prices of iron rose from Rs.9,300/- to Rs.16,300/- per tonne and similarly, prices of coal rose from Rs.5,400/- to Rs.10,000/-.

A large number of small engineering foundry units in the country and particularly in Gujarat face the threat of closure. With the result, lakhs of labourers face threat of unemployment and starvation and it will also adversely affect the agriculturists because agricultural equipment will become dearer.

I, therefore, urge the Government to intervene immediately and control the prices of cast iron, pig iron and coal.